

APPENDIX E - WATFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL HIGHWAY WORKS

Transportation and Infrastructure -- Update

New Time-Tables for the Bus Shelters and QR codes

Over 100 new bus shelter time-tables have been installed at our shelters around the Town. In addition to the bus information and an updated shelter location map the new posters will also include four QR codes (quick response bar codes) for visitors and travellers to use.

The QR codes will enable you to link, via a smart phone, to the Council's web site and then directly to a map showing the available cycle route within the Town.

Should your journey be outside of Watford then there is also a useful QR code for the Interlink web site which provides travel information across Hertfordshire.

For the business visitor to the Town we have a Watford Commuter QR code which provides useful travel advice and finally a QR code for Watford For You web site which provides information on living, visiting and business in Watford.

New Cycle Racks for the Parade

Six new cycle racks have been installed in The Parade, between the Library and Horns Public House to help with the increasing demand for cycle parking in this area. The six Sheffield Hoops will provide cycle parking for up to twelve cycles at any one time.

Way Marking Strategy

As part of the Cultural Strategy for the town centre, works have started on developing a new way marking strategy for the town. The aim will be to provide map based key destination legible signage to ensure that the town is more navigable and core features and landmarks are plotted. As part of the first phase of the project a stakeholders group will be set up to look at developing the project and to look at key design aspects such as the colour theme, font etc.

New Style Street Name Plates

Following the introduction of the new style street name plates as part phase 1 of the County Council led Clarendon Road Pedestrian Improvements Programme, a further 20 name plates with destination sub-plates are to be introduced. The aim will be to expand the new style name plates project to other roads around the town centre and provide pedestrians with the average walking time to key destinations.

Parking Service -- Update

New Parking Machine Project

The new parking machine upgrade project has been completed with the final 12 machines installed last month. The new machines will cater for the new style 5p and 10p coins which are being introduced in March/April. They will also provide added security and user reliability.

The parking service have been working towards producing new GIS (Geographic Information Systems) maps which will be available to the public on-line. The maps will show where 1, 2 and 4hour pay and display parking are located in the Borough and the boundaries of the Controlled Parking Zones.

Traffic Regulation Orders -- Update

Cassiobury Controlled Parking Zone Review

Statutory consultation on the Traffic Orders supporting the expansion of the current zone to include an additional 8 roads, including the holding of a one day exhibition, took place during November and early December 2011. Consideration of the objections is underway. Implementation of this expansion, assuming objections can be resolved satisfactorily is anticipated towards the end of February 2012. Representations from residents of roads on the Cassiobury Estate still outside the zone are now being received requesting inclusion and consideration of these requests will also take place early in 2012.

The Council has started an informal consultation on proposals to manage parking in the vicinity of the shops at the Langley Way/ Cassiobury Drive junction. Improvements to the facilities for pedestrians at this junction are also being developed with a view to bringing forward a more detailed proposal for wider consultation later in 2012.

Nascot Area

Initial proposals for 'commuter ban' restrictions in Bellamy Close, Grandfield Ave, Langwood Gardens and Maple Grove were the subject of a consultation exercise with residents. A large number of responses were received and the schemes are being revised in light of these comments. Formal Statutory Consultation on a revised scheme is proposed for early 2012.

Further consultation on parking and other traffic related issues in The Avenue, Church Road area and Park Road is planned for later in 2012.

Oxhey Ward parking Consultation

A Ward wide consultation with residents and businesses in relation to parking issues took place during July and August indicated that residents did not support area wide parking controls to address parking issues. Measures to adjust existing yellow line restrictions at junctions within the Ward, including the introduction of some short stay parking to support local shops and some new parking controls on junctions where obstructive parking has been a problem are being developed. The Council is also working closely with OVEG

to support the development of a community led Considerate Parking Scheme aimed at encouraging responsible parking attitudes within the Ward.

Queens Road/ The Broadway

Proposals to introduce a small number of free limited waiting spaces in Queens Road to support top up shopping habits are to be taken to Statutory Consultation during the early part of 2012. Changes to parking controls in Queens Road to extend the length of time motorcycles can be parked free of charge in the designated motorcycle bay is also to be increased from 1 hour to 2 hours.

Shaftesbury Road – Waterfields Recreation Ground car park

Proposals to manage the car park at the end of Shaftesbury Road to protect parking opportunity for residents permit holders and short term visitors to Waterfields Recreation Ground are also due to go to Statutory Consultation early in 2012. Subject to satisfactory resolution of any objections received the target date for implementing changes at this location and also in Queens Road is mid 2012.

Horseshoe Lane and Eastbury Road

New yellow lines in Eastbury Road, Oxhey and Horseshoe Lane Garston were implemented in November 2011.

Various Road Traffic Orders

A Traffic Order to introduce new or extended controls in the following roads has been made and came in to affect on 12 December 2011. At the time of writing this report contractors erecting the requisite signs and laying the lines were still on-site completing the work. It is anticipated that this work will be fully complete by the end of December 2011.

Beechwood Rise

Bushey Mill Lane (Tudor Parade) – disabled bay

Courtlands Drive (Goodwood Parade) – disabled bay

Lavinia Close

Longspring/ Thrums

Tolpits Lane service road

Work on the next 'various roads' Order covering between 15 and 20 sites across the Borough commenced in December. Ward/ Divisional Members will be contacted with initial proposals early in 2012 for their initial comments. It is anticipated that it will take up to the end of the summer 2012 to complete this Order.

Under s115 of the Highways Act

The Borough Council can undertake works on the highway where they are providing an amenity.

A) Highway related

1) Cassiobury Park

Improvements to cycle and pedestrian route signage from existing walking and cycle routes. Sign design options under consideration in conjunction with the HLF bid. Implementation mid2011.

2) Town Centre Cultural Study – Rickmansworth Rd to Albert Rd Sth

The Council has appointed Building Design Partnership (BDP) to provide consultancy services for the feasibility, design and supervision of the public realm works. This element will develop the concept design in the Town Centre Cultural Study for public consultation in Spring 2012. Site surveys are currently underway. In December BDP began a 'factfinding' exercise with the public, officers and organisations to collect views on what should go in the space. This exercise will continue throughout January and includes a meeting with Borough and County members on January 31st at Watford Town Hall. Design options will be produced during Spring for consultation early in the Summer.

3) Gade Access Road – removal of planter D

Works to remove the redundant planter at the side of Gade House are complete. A new loading bay has been created primarily to assist the setting up of the events markets.

B) Transport related projects on Council owned land

1) Woodside Leisure Centre

a) A WBC 106/capital funded project for pedestrian and cycle access improvements to and across the site. Construction and lighting works were completed Dec 2011. A signage review is underway and will be implemented by the end of March 12. The existing TRO to control parking on the site will be modified by the end of March 12 to incorporate the top car park.

2) Oxhey Park pedestrian and cycle bridge

a) Following completion of the bridge additional works to upgrade the path and install direction signage on part of fp56 and the permissive path from the bridge to Lower High St are currently underway

3) Whippendell Woods Bridleway conversion

a) The existing Council owned permissive horse track has been upgraded to adoptable standard and access improvements made at the Rousebarn Lane and Grove Mill Lane entrances. HCC are in the process of finalising legal orders to adopt it as a Bridleway thus permitting cycling on it. HCC have not given an expected completion date.

C) RIGHTS OF WAY WORKS BY THE LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY

The Council is required to carry out footpath diversions under the s.257 Town and County Planning Act 1990 to enable developments to take place.

1) Watford Springs site FP50 and 52

Planning consent was granted in August 2009 and the development necessitates the diversion of definitive footpaths 50 and 52. Preparation of draft legal orders is being completed by HCC Rights of Way unit. It is anticipated that they will be published for consultation in Feb 2012. A temporary diversion for the duration of the works will be in place for the duration of construction works.

A Creation Order under s.25 for the dedication of an additional width of path leading to Watford Fields infant school will also be made by Watford Council.

2) Oxhey Park Bridge FP56

The siting of the bridge necessitates the permanent diversion of 60m of definitive footpath on the east bank of the river. Informal consultation has taken place with The Ramblers Association and draft legal orders are expected to be published in Mar 2012 (subject to HCC rights of way approval).